

Senate Standing Committee on Economics
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Innovation, Industry, Science and Research Portfolio
Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearing 2011-12
19 October 2011

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: DEPARTMENT OF INNOVATION, INDUSTRY, SCIENCE AND RESEARCH

TOPIC: TCF UNION AUSTRALIA

REFERENCE: Written Question – Senator Colbeck

QUESTION No.: SI-139

1. Aside from the DEEWR and DIISR funding disclosed at that Estimates hearing, has Government funding of any other kind been provided to the TCF Union of Australia since 2007? If so, what has the nature and amount of that funding been?
2. Has the Department been involved in any work on the development on the TCF Ethical Quality Mark? If so, what has been the nature and cost of that work – and when will the final outcome of this process be communicated to the industry and the Australian public?

ANSWER

1. With respect to the Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research (DIISR), the TCFUA has received \$720,000 (GST inclusive) to deliver community-based services which enhance the support available under the TCF Structural Adjustment Program
2. Following a recommendation from the TCF Industries Innovation Council, DIISR funded a study into the feasibility and appropriateness of establishing a voluntary Australian TCF Ethical Quality Mark (EQM). The cost of this study was \$89,056 (GST inclusive).

When the study was completed, in the latter part of 2011, the Council provided industry associations with copies of the report and invited them to a roundtable meeting to discuss the report. DIISR engaged a facilitator at a cost of \$3,749 (GST inclusive).

Drawing upon the comments from the industry associations and Council members, the Council has established a sub-committee to review the project's findings and develop possible advice to the Government on the feasibility of a voluntary EQM. The sub-committee is currently working on the development of a business plan to underpin the Council's future advice on an Ethical Quality Mark.